

# The Advocate of Truth



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

*Word Keys That Unlock Truth* ..... 3

This month our word is "bray".

*Qualifications Of A Saint* ..... 3-5

What qualifies one to be a saint?

*Be Careful What You Look At* ..... 5

Henry Ford left us some words of wisdom.

*Let Freedom Ring!* ..... 6-9

What does it really mean to have freedom?

*David - Prophet And Psalmist* ..... 9-10

David was a man of many talents.

*Jesus Is The Way* ..... 11-12

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

*True Greatness* ..... 13

The Son of Man came to minister.

*The Signs Of The Times* ..... 14-15

Radical Christians want to restore Christ to Christmas.

*Questions And Answers* ..... 16-17

What does it mean when the Bible says  
"I prevented the morning"?

*The Church Around The World* ..... 18-19

This month we look at Colombia.

*The Children's Pages* ..... 20-23

*Sabbath School Lessons*  
*A Story - "Sooner or Later"*  
*Games and Puzzles*

The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

#### POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

THE CHURCH OF GOD  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
P.O. Box 328  
Salem, WV 26426-0328

Telephone: 304-782-1411

Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills ..... Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Fred Hardman ..... Printer

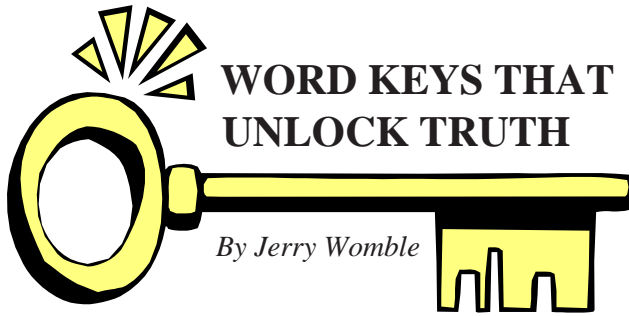
Volume LV

Number 1

July 25, 2005

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940



## BRAY

Yes, bray is in the Bible. I came across it while reading Proverbs 27:22. "Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him." To understand this word we must first understand mortar and pestle. A mortar is a grinding bowl and a pestle is the object used to pound or grind into finer parts the substance that is put into the bowl. Wheat is mentioned also. Threshing wheat separates the wheat from the chaff; but, sometimes a husk sticks to the grain so tightly that a more severe action is taken to re-



What qualifies one to be a saint? The words "saint" and "saints" appear in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, there are three Hebrew words translated "saints". These are: qadosh, quodesh, and qaddiyah. They all have the meaning of "set apart, separate, and holy". There is one other word in Hebrew which has been translated "saints". It means "pious, kind". There is only one Greek word in the New Testament translated saints. It is hagios. It has the same meaning as the principal Hebrew words have; namely, "set apart, separate,

move the husk. This pounding or grinding will turn the grain into flour and the husk will remain to be taken out. This is the act of braying. Now we have the remainder of the verse, even this severe action can not separate the fool from his ways. His way of lies sticks to him so tight that all discipline, teaching and experience is wasted on him and these ways stick to him because of his nature and long habits. His correction should have taken place when he was a child. Read Proverbs 22:15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." A certain amount of silliness and disobedience is born in every child, and it takes the rod of correction to make sure it does not continue when the child grows.

I am also reminded of Jeremiah 13:23 where the Bible tells us the leopard cannot change his spots. Here again, the person has so much evil in his life that it has become a way of life for him, and he is not willing to make a change. There are two things that we should learn from this study; one is to watch our children and keep them from letting bad or evil habits become a part of their life, and for ourselves, do not let bad habits or "...the sin that doth so easily beset us.." Hebrews 12:1, become rooted in our lives, because it will pull us away from the Lord.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF A SAINT

and holy".

When the Apostle Paul wrote letters of encouragement to congregations which he had established, he addressed them as "saints". He reminded the brethren at Rome and Corinth that they were called saints. "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7). "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place

call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's" (I Corinthians 1:2). Considering the exact definition of the Greek word, it meant that they were called for the purpose of being set apart, separated from the world. In his other letters, Paul addresses those who were saints living at that time, who had taken the step of devoting their lives to God and had separated themselves from the world.

In his second letter to Corinth, he addressed certain Corinthian brethren as saints. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia" (II Corinthians 1:1). He addressed the Ephesians brethren as saints. "Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Ephesian 1:1). In his letter to the Philippians, Paul added another dimension to his greetings, calling them "all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi." "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Philippians 1:1). We now see that the use of the term "saints" was to define congregations of people who had accepted Jesus as their personal Redeemer, and had consecrated their lives to God.

From Bible description, the word "saints" does not refer to a class selected by a church hierarchy, but rather by God, the Father. Jesus plainly confirmed this when He said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44). Also, saints are not appointed many years after their deaths through a process of "canonization". They are called saints while they are living because they have set themselves apart to serve God and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

The name "saints" can be used to describe all consecrated believers in Christ. In particular, it refers to those being selected as a "people for His (God's) name." "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name" (Acts 15:14). There are tests of faithfulness that must be met before they can be glorified with Christ. This is the ultimate goal, as the brethren in Thessalonica were reminded by the Apostle Paul.

Paul had been driven away from Thessalonica by rogues hired by the Jews. The persecution that these

oppressors would have liked to pour upon him was now directed toward the brethren in the congregation of Thessalonica. As Paul left to go to Athens, having been driven away from the province of Macedonia by these same Jews, he anxiously awaited word concerning the welfare of the Thessalonian brethren. He had sent Timothy to Thessalonica, and Silas to Berea to establish the brethren in each congregation. They were delayed in joining him, but finally caught up with him in Corinth. They brought the news that the Thessalonian brethren were doing well in understanding God's Word, and in enduring persecution.

Paul immediately wrote the first epistle to the Thessalonians, commending them for their faith and witnessing in the heart of persecution by their fellow countrymen. He recounted his love for them and his longing to see them. They also loved him and appreciated his ministry and loving care. In the middle of his letter, Paul pronounced a benediction upon them to give them courage and hope as they walked as saints in their country. He said, "Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you. To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints" (I Thessalonians 3:11-13).

What are the qualifications for being a saint? In Paul's letter, we see some requirements mentioned in his benediction. One is love for each other and all mankind. Another requirement is striving against sin to lead faultless lives as completely as is possible. Earlier in this epistle Paul refers to their "work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" (I Thessalonians 1:3). He also refers to their "election of God." "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God" (Vs. 4). He mentions them being followers of the Lord while enduring much affliction with joy. "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost" (Vs. 6). He tells of their witnessing efforts. "For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also

in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak anything" (Verse 8). The apostle then tells them what a joy they were to him. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of the Our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy" (I Thessalonians 2:19-20).

From these scriptures we see that "the saints" are the congregations of God's people who have been called of God "according to His purpose." "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). The purpose that God has for them is that they "be conformed to the image of his Son." "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Vs. 29). They have been separated for God's purpose and are called holy. If they faithfully carry out their covenant by sacrifice, they "shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Read Revelation 20:6.

### ***BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU LOOK AT***

Henry Ford once asked a young automotive engineer what the driving force or ambition in his life was. The young engineer replied that he wanted to be rich - very rich. A few days later, Ford handed the young engineer a pair of metal-rimmed glasses with silver dollars where the glass lenses normally were. Ford then asked the young man to put the glasses on and asked him, "What do you see?" The young man responded, "I don't see anything because the money blocks out everything." Ford quietly said to him, "It might be a good idea for you to rethink your ambition."

It is true that an inspired individual who focuses on any one thing has a good chance of getting it. However, if he focuses on only one thing, he will be a one-dimensional individual and probably a very unhappy one. If money becomes our sole driving objective, by hook or by crook we will attain that objective. Unfortunately, the "crook" part enters the picture because if money is the only objective, we have a tendency not to be overly concerned about the way that money is acquired. It is true that you can become rich without any character (drug dealers, thieves, and, for that matter, some business people, politicians, physicians and athletes accumulate -

at least temporarily - lots of money but lose everything else).

You can go right down the list, and often your objectives are one-dimensional, you will generally find a person who is neither happy nor healthy and probably does not get along well socially or with the family. Don't misunderstand - I encourage people to set goals in all areas of life, but they key word is "all", so that our life will be in balance.

Message: When you put your glasses on, make certain the lenses are multidimensional so that you might see all the beauties of life instead of just one specific thing. Do that, and you will come out on top!

### **Get your priorities in order**

Many people often say that such and such a person should "get their priorities in order." In 1924, Bill Havens was one of America's best rowers, and most people thought he would win three medals - probably gold - at the Olympic Games in Paris. However, a few months before the Olympics, Havens realized that his wife was going to deliver their firstborn child during his trip to Paris. In those days it took two weeks to travel across the Atlantic, so he would be gone a total of six weeks. Bill decided he could not leave his wife during this important time and forfeited his spot to another. He felt bad about deserting his teammates and often wondered about the medals he might have won.

In 1952, Bill Havens got a telegram from his son, Frank, who had just won a gold medal in the 10,000 meter canoeing final at the Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. The telegram read, "Dear Dad thanks for waiting around for me to get born. I'm coming home with the gold medal you should have won. Your loving son, Frank."

Bill Havens knew then he had made the right choice.

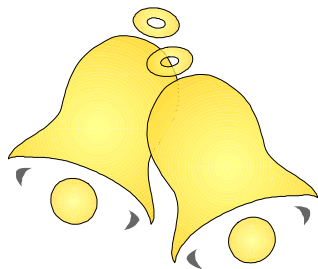
Often, we're not aware of some of the most important choices we make until years later, but that doesn't alter the fact that it's always the right time to prioritize and make the right choice.

One of the ironies of life is that many times, parents work overtime or even take second jobs in order to provide their families with more of the "good things" in life. However, study after study has revealed that when given the choice, children for whom Mom and/or Dad are working so hard would prefer more of their parents time. In other words, the most precious gift parents can give is themselves.

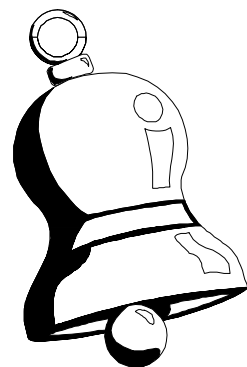
Your presence says more than a thousand gifts ever can, so, parents, get your priorities in order.

From Zig Ziglar/The Daily Iberian, New Iberia, Louisiana

# LET FREEDOM RING!



By Carol Buechner



What does it really mean to have freedom? If you were to ask other people, you would probably get many different answers. Weigh carefully what freedom really means as you study the meanings for the word as well as some other thoughts concerning freedom in history, in the United States and what the Bible says about it.

Dictionaries give various meanings of the word freedom. They include: (1) the state of being free, (2) being exempted or liberated from the control of some other person or power, (3) being released or excused from laws, (4) free from obligations, (5) released from imprisonment, (6) being able to move, act or use without hindrances or restraints, (7) being able to determine actions according to will, (8) moving and performing with ease, (9) free from restricting rules or patterns, (10) independence, (11) liberty, (12) self determination. The opposite of freedom would be slavery, bondage, restraint, subjected to force or influence, limitation of liberty, confinement, hindrance and prohibition.

When Jesus came to live on the earth, freedom or liberty was not common for the people. Their life was regulated and governed by the Romans. They were subject to the Roman laws and taxes. Life was difficult because the Romans ruled with an iron fist, showing little tolerance for anyone's needs. The people were looking for a Messiah to save them from the tyranny of the Romans but no one came to free them from man's rule.

After the death of Jesus, the need for freedom from man's rule continued. The apostles worked hard at carrying on the message of Jesus. However, they met with resistance and had to struggle to keep the message alive. John was the only one of the original Apostle's that was not martyred. The others met their deaths in tragic ways at the hands of the enemies of God. The real truth, as was

preached by the apostles, had a difficult time surviving. Many more people lost their lives trying to preach the truth to others. After the fall of Jerusalem, the true church was driven out and had to take refuge in Pella. As the years went by, the truth struggled to survive but did because of many faithful people. The Church at Rome, with the Pope as the supreme being, became extremely strong and did all it could to change anything that had to do with the Jewish religious practice. There were many laws passed that attempted to obliterate the truth. For example, at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., the first edict was made that favored the "Venerable day of the sun" which meant that Sunday was to be the day of rest and not the Sabbath that Jesus had supported. The Catholic church changed the Sabbath from Saturday, the seventh day of the week, to the first day of the week, Sunday. In the year 364 A.D., a law was passed by Catholic bishops at their council meeting that prohibited Christians to rest from their work on Saturday, as did the Jews. This is only one small example of what changes were made to God's word. By the year 538 A.D., the Pope was raised to spiritual power over the Roman state itself, and it was agreed by Emperor Justinina of Rome, that Church and state were to be united. The truth was being greatly oppressed in an attempt to make the Pope and his rule supreme. Rome even went so far as to say that the Scriptures alone did not contain all the truths that Christians were bound to believe nor the duties they were obliged to practice. This opened the door for the Romans to force their practices and interpretations on all they could possibly convince. This was only a taste of what was to come as the oppressive practices continued. History has called the years to come as the "Dark Ages." This was a time of suppression where most people were not educated and the eco-

conomic situation of millions of people was extremely poor. The Crusades were conducted and many more of God's saints were martyred.

Fast forward in time to more recent times. In the sixteenth hundreds, people started coming to America for two reasons: 1. to pursue riches and 2. to gain religious freedom. In most countries of the world, the truth was still being stifled and many people wanted a land where they could worship God freely without government interference. Thus, came the beginning of a country now known as the United States of America. But freedom for the new country did not come without a price. It was and in some ways still is a struggle. The control of the newly established colonies was a struggle against the country of Great Britain. They wanted to maintain control of the colonies with their suppressive laws and taxes. After years of struggle, the American Revolution was fought to free the colonies from Great Britain's control. It was a difficult battle because Great Britain had a strong, well-supplied and organized army while the colonies had no organized army and few guns and supplies. After finally winning the war, the new country struggled to become organized. The United States was founded on a belief in God and the principles of the Bible

Once the United States became established on godly principles, a practice became prevalent that certainly did not express the freedom that the country was founded on. This practice is called slavery. Unfortunately, many black people were imported to the United States to work as slaves on the large plantations of the south. Many of these people were cruelly treated. They had no freedom at all and were under complete control of their masters. The people of the United States were divided on the issue of slavery and it ended in a tragic war called "The Civil War," to free the black people. From 1861-1865, the nation was divided with the north fighting against the south. After the loss of thousands of lives and many bloody battles, the northern states claimed victory. This supposedly ended the slavery of the black people. However, this end did not happen. The southern states passed many laws that again enslaved the black people in different ways. Although they were no longer owned by a master, they were not free. Many black people lost their lives through the crooked law officials that were in control and through the vicious attacks of the Ku Klux Klan. This lack of freedom carried in the twentieth century and was a great

struggle for the black people to become equal with the white people. In reality, the black race of people in the United States still today have not gained equality, as it should be.

If you were to study the history of the world, you would see the constant struggle that has gone on for the cause of freedom. Millions of lives have been lost because of oppressive people and governments that wanted to take control of people's lives. If you were to study the history of the United States, you would realize that this country was founded by godly men that sought freedom for all. These men believed in God, the principles of the Bible, and wanted this country to be grounded in what the Bible taught. If you were to spend time studying history, you would learn about the struggles that have gone on that cost so many lives. Just the history of the United States is enough to make you realize that in five hundred years so much violence and tragedy happened to give you what freedoms you enjoy today. Freedom always seems to come with a high price, and the struggle goes on in many countries of the world today.

On the fourth of July, the people of the United States celebrate the freedom or liberty that was obtained for every one of us by the founding fathers and those down through history that fought for freedom that is so often taken for granted. But, there is one kind of freedom or liberty that is more important than any other and must be foremost in our hearts. It should be celebrated by Christians every day. This is explained in Isaiah 61:1-3: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to PROCLAIM LIBERTY To the CAPTIVES, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." This is referring to what Jesus did by coming to the earth and giving his life. Just think what this is saying! Jesus has good news for you! He was sent to heal your heart, to announce liberty to you, to release you from the prison of Satan's bondage, to tell you of God's revenge on the wicked, to comfort you in mourning, to bring you joy and

release you from praise and make you a righteous person bringing glory to God. As you spend time with this great passage of scripture, you will find so much to dwell on that Jesus has done for you. Now that you have had a taste of the liberty Jesus brings you, carefully examine the following scriptures and let them sink into your spirit as you more fully understand the liberty that you have been given as a special gift from God.

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:21-23).

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:14-17).

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty where with Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another": (Galatians 5:1,13).

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1-4).

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law

of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:14-16).

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: But Christ is all, and in all" (Colossians 3:11). "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Think about what Jesus did! He is the Son of God. He came to earth and took on flesh just like all other human beings. He did this because He knew there was no other way that man could be redeemed from the bondage of sin. Sin could only be dealt with temporarily through the sacrifice of animals. For this to become a complete redemption and freedom, Jesus had to give His own life to free you from the sin that condemns your body. Jesus died a horrible and painful death so that every person alive may have forgiveness of sins. The Holy Spirit was then sent to enable you to walk in the liberty or freedom that Jesus gave to you at no cost to you. It is a wonderful thing to know that Jesus did this for you and that He cared enough to free you from your sins. If you follow the truth that is written in God's word, you can remain in that freedom.

Celebrate your freedom that has been freely given to you, but as you celebrate, do not forget that you now have a responsibility. You are a child of God and you have the command now to bring others to God so that they can receive salvation just as you have. The Bible states: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them..." (Matthew 28:19). "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). Your command is to go into the world with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. You may say, "I'm not a preacher nor a teacher where the verses say to preach and teach." This is not just talking to ministers but it is talking to everyone to take the message of salvation to all that they meet. If

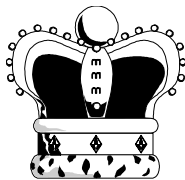


this message were only for those in ministering positions, the number of people that would be receiving the message would be greatly reduced. Think about it in this way. If the church has two ministers and one thousand members, how many people can two ministers come in contact with? If one thousand people are going out to their jobs, social activities, etc., and carrying the message of salvation with them, it greatly increases the odds that more people are going to be saved. The command is to **"GO," not to "SIT"** and wait for people to come to you and ask about salvation. People are not going to come knocking at your door while you sit and wait for them. It is your responsibility to tell others about Jesus and the salvation He offers everyone. God does not accept excuses from you to not do your part carrying the message of freedom through salvation in Jesus. It was given as a **COMMAND** to everyone and you **MUST** do your part. Jesus calls you a laborer for the harvest of the word. "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the

labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). There are many souls in this world to be gathered in to salvation, and you are one of the workers to do the great commission of "Going into the world to teach and bring others to salvation."

**FREEDOM-LIBERTY** Do you have a new appreciation for these two words now? Every day, thank God that you have been granted the privilege of knowing Jesus and that you have salvation through him. If you do not have salvation, Mark 16:16 says that you are damned. Celebrate this freedom by bringing the message of freedom to as many people as you possibly can. As you celebrate the fourth of July, ring out the news that you appreciate the freedom that you have to worship God freely and that you have the freedom that Jesus gave you through salvation from your sins! Give God the glory and thank Him for the special privilege of being His servant!

## David - Prophet and Psalmist

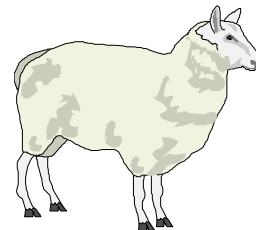


### David - The Prophet

In addition to being Israel's king, David was also greatly used by God as one of His "Holy Prophets." His prophecies are found in the book of Psalms. They pertain largely to the sufferings and death of Jesus, His resurrection, the future glories of His kingdom, and the blessings which it will shower upon the people.

Psalm 16, prophesies the death and resurrection of Jesus and the confidence He would have in the promise of His Father to deliver and exalt Him to His own right hand where there would be pleasures forevermore.

In Psalm 22, is a prophecy by David foretelling Jesus' experience while hanging on the cross. Jesus is represented as saying, "They part my garments among them,



and cast lots upon my vesture" (vs. 18). Hanging on the cross and watching the Roman soldiers divide His clothing among themselves and then cast lots for His costly outer garment, Jesus recognized the fulfillment of this entire prophecy, and, mustering what He could of His ebbing strength, He began to quote the psalm, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (vs. 1)

The Second Psalm prophesies the triumphant victory of Jesus, as king, at His second advent, when He subdues the nations under Him and rules them "with a rod of iron." In the 96th and 98th Psalms, we have additional prophecies concerning the kingdom, showing that it will also be a time of righteous judgment. "Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the

fullness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth" (Psalm 96:11-13).

#### David -The Psalmist

As a writer, David is referred to more often as a psalmist than a prophet, although he is only once described in the Bible. The text is II Samuel 23:1. Here he is referred to as "the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel." It is in his psalms, the true character of David is revealed. In reading them, we understand better why the Lord referred to him as a man after His own heart.

Many of David's psalms abound with praise to God. "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:1-3). "O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people; and will sing praises unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth" (Psalm, 108:1-5).

Many of David's psalms reflect the stormy periods of his reign as king and his struggles to hold his enemies at bay. The 9th Psalm reads, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. Thou has rebuked the heathen, thou has destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name forever and ever" (vss. 1-5).

When victory over his enemies was delayed, David's faith was tested; and these heart-searching experiences he also reveals by psalm. "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? forever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?" (Psalm 13:1-2)

When his son, Absalom, rebelled against him, David

was forced to fall. Although his throne was temporarily wrested from him, David continued to trust in the Lord, and wrote: "Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be that say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about" (Psalm 3:1-6).

David's earlier experience in life as a tender of his father's sheep also add richness and depth to his writings. Throughout the centuries, his shepherd psalm has contributed comfort to the Lord's people. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever" (Psalm 23).

Because David's heart was right in the Lord's sight, goodness and mercy did "follow" him all the days of his life. His written prophecies and psalms are inspired by the Lord.  
- Contributed

#### A THOUGHT

For a long period of time, God intended to bring Israel to perfection, teaching them to live holy lives as He is holy, giving them the first commandment (Matthew 22:37). He then made it clear that only in Him they should believe. Through the prophets, He taught them the way to holiness that He offered to them in His commandments and statutes.

But sin separated Israel from Him, and the Lord blinded their understanding. Therefore, they cannot understand the reality of their spiritual situation. Not only is Israel blinded, but also those who do not accept God in their hearts are also blind, because they remain in darkness.

Brother Hugo Calzada  
Houston, Texas

# Jesus Is The Way

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock



"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Readers and friends, you can only look to Jesus and live. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A PROPHET SHALL THE LORD YOUR GOD RAISE UP UNTO YOU OF YOUR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; HIM SHALL YE HEAR IN ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER HE SHALL SAY UNTO YOU. AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT EVERY SOUL, WHICH WILL NOT HEAR THAT PROPHET, SHALL BE DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE" (Acts 3:19-23). "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:1-5). "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (verse 9-12).

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of

the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God": Not by works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:1-13).

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them

that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:14-22). "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23).

"But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator" (Hebrews 9:11-16).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:8-10). "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an Antichrist. Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house; neither bid him God speed"

(II John 1:7-10).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:16-21). "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh for heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth: and no man receiveth his testimony. He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (verses 31-36).

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

### **"COME TO JESUS"**

By Sister Becky Calzada

There was a time when I was lonely,  
Without hope and without God.  
I was dying very slowly,  
Full of sin in my heart,  
When then someone told me,  
there is someone who already died.  
For all your sins in your life...  
His name is Jesus, the Son of God,  
And He's willing to forgive you  
No matter what you did in the past.  
Repentance is what the Lord wants

So He can give you the promise of eternal life.

Don't hesitate - come to Jesus.  
He is our Saviour - He is the light.  
Then I understood that being lonely,  
Was not having Jesus in my life;  
Therefore I repented,  
And accepted the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not lonely anymore,  
Because Jesus lives in my heart.  
So this story is to tell you -  
How much He loves us all,  
And tell you to come to Jesus.  
He's waiting with wide open arms,  
And is also willing to give you  
The promise of eternal life.

Don't hesitate-come to Jesus  
He is our Saviour - He is the light.  
Then I understood that being lonely,  
Was not having Jesus in my life

There I repented and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not lonely anymore,  
because Jesus lives in my heart,  
So this story is to tell you,  
How much He loves us all,  
And tell you to come to Jesus  
That He's waiting with wide open arms,  
And also willing to give you,  
The promise of eternal life

## TRUE GREATNESS

### A LESSON STUDY

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Luke 10:45).

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45

In the above scripture readings, our attention is drawn to the importance of humility. The spirit of rivalry and selfishness must not be condoned. It must be overcome by all who are of the household of faith.

In the first selection, Jesus asked his disciples what it was that they had been disputing about while on their way to Capernaum (Mark 9:33). Perhaps it was because they wished to show no disrespect toward their Master that they "held their peace," as well as to hide their embarrassment of having disputed among themselves as to which of them would be the greatest in the kingdom of God

(Mark 9:34).

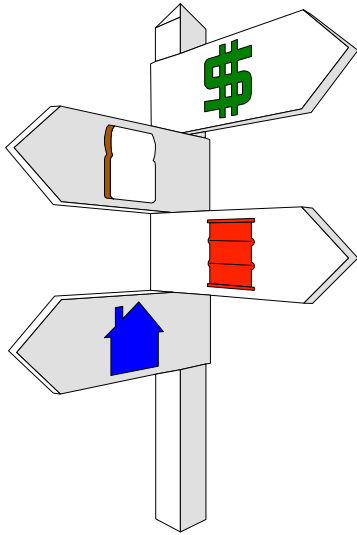
Jesus proceeded to teach them an important lesson, "And he sat down, and called the twelve and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all" (verse 35). Then He took a small child in His arms, and told His disciples to turn away from this self-seeking spirit of rivalry and become as little children themselves. The meaningful traits of a small child are love, trust, obedience, and teachableness. The lesson for the child of God is that he must humble himself even as a child and emulate these important characteristics.

The second selection of scripture reading concerns the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, who approached Jesus with a special request. "They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory" (Mark 10:37). His direct answer to the two brothers reveals what it means to seek joint-heirship with our Lord in His kingdom. "But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (verse 38)

Our Lord wanted His disciples to grasp the significance of the special cup which the Heavenly Father had given Him to drink of. It was a cup of self-denial, and a baptism unto death. Those who would participate with Him in His Kingdom must also share with Him in the sufferings of the present time. He assured them that they would take part with Him in the experiences of this life, but that He did not have the authority to place certain friends in positions of glory. He said, "But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared" (verse 40). Peter learned this lesson well and said, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6).

Jesus did not have one standard for His followers and another for Himself. He became a man not only to redeem His disciples, but to be a propitiation for the sins of the whole world. He explained it to them, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

He humbly and voluntarily laid down His life for others. His followers are admonished to do likewise. "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11).



# THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.*

*The following article appeared in The Advocate which is published in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

## **Radical Christians lobby to restore Christ to Christmas**

**by Ellen Barry  
Los Angeles Times**

**RALEIGH-N.C.** - This year, as Christmas season swung into gear, Pastor Patrick Wooden's followers fanned out to shopping malls across Raleigh to deliver a muscular message of holiday cheer: As Christian shoppers, they would like to be greeted with the phrase "Merry Christmas" - not a bland "Happy Holidays" - and stores that failed to do so would risk losing their business.

Nearly six weeks later, some residents in Raleigh are seething over what they see as an attempt to force religion into the public square. But others say "Merry Christmas" is rolling off their tongues more easily and more often than in previous years. Emboldened by their victories in November's elections, conservative Christians nationwide have convened around the topic of Christmas, contending that secularists and nonbelievers have tried to obliterate the holiday's religious meaning.

In Oklahoma and Florida, skirmishes have erupted over the display of nativity scenes in government property; a California man has called for a boycott of Macy's and Bloomingdale's department stores demanding the phrase. "Merry Christmas" be used; in Denver, the mayor's attempt to remove "Merry Christmas" from the light dis-

play raised such a howl of protest that he reversed his decision.

In Raleigh, the grass-roots campaigning has focused on retailers. And it has been so invigorating that the church is making plans for next year, said Wooden, a barrel-chested former football player who leads a conservative black congregation of about 3,000.

"Our position is, if they want the gold, frankincense and myrrh, they should acknowledge the birth of the child," said Wooden, pastor of the Upper Room Church of God in Christ. Conservative merchants feel ready to push back against what they deem "the secularists for the humanists or the elitists" who dominate popular culture, said the Rev. Mark Creech of the Christian Action League of North Carolina, which is based in Raleigh.

"It's a cultural war. We are in the thick of it," Creech said. "It's not so much an attack on us. It's an attack on Christ."

Throughout history, religious people have fretted over the holiday's secular aspects, said Penne Restad, a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin and the author of "Christmas in America": A History.

Created by the Roman Catholic church in the fourth century, the celebration of the nativity coincided with pro-Christian feasts, allowing observant Christians to "then go out the door and participate in Saturnalia," Restad said. In pre-colonial days, English authorities looked on the holiday as a riot of drunkenness and hooliganism. American Puritans rejected it completely, preferring to get up and go to work.

Not until the 1820s and '30s, with the holiday "getting rowdier and rowdier and more destructive," did Ameri-

cans redefine it as a safe and private family time, Restad said - the stereotypical old fashioned Christmas celebrated in carols and Currier & Ives prints. Karl Ann Marling, author of "Merry Christmas! Celebrating America's Greatest Holiday," called complaints about secularization 'complete and utter bunk.'

"If you think Christmas meant the baby Jesus in the past, it didn't," said Marling, a professor of art history at the University of Minnesota. Still, the last 20 years have seen a corporate trend toward generic holiday celebration - brought about not through the law, as private businesses are free to decorate as they like but by a desire not to offend, a retail expert said.

At Cary Town Center, a mall just outside Raleigh, displays featured azure and with artificial trees, massive suspended ornaments and flakes of iridescent plastic which, from a distance, bore a resemblance to snow. Heather Vandeusen, manager at The Body Shop, which sells skin-care products, said off-site managers train her staff to say "Happy Holidays."

"If my corporation allowed it, I wouldn't have a problem with it," said Vandeusen, 20. "I still say 'Merry Christmas,' personally."

A major shift took place in the 1990's, when corporations became sensitive to complaints of customers on both ends of the political spectrum, said Russell Sway, international president of the Institute of Store Planners, an Atlanta-based association of design and merchandising specialists.

"On the one hand, you have a board of directors who's yelling at you for doing anything that offends anyone. On the other hand you have this group that's yelling at you for commercializing a religious holiday," Sway said.

Wooden and his church - which has a cherry-red "Merry Christmas" banner hanging across its front, looking for all the world like a political slogan - aim to push back against that spirit of caution.

One the day after Thanksgiving, the church ran a full-page advertisement in the Raleigh News and Observer, urging Christians to "spend their hard-earned dollars with merchants who include the greeting Merry Christmas"

Over the next week, the paper ran a series of passionate letters, many critical of the advertisement: "What happened to the land that my parents, Eastern European immigrants, adopted as their beloved country - a country of fairness and tolerance?" wrote Harriet Lasher.

An Episcopal priest wrote to compare the campaign to the Nazi policy requiring Jews to identify themselves with yellow stars.

Judah Segal, executive director of the Raleigh-Cary Jewish Ederaton, said he was not disturbed by the advertisement, and hoped it was intended to "remind Christians that there is an essence to the holiday," not to shut out others. "We really respect and admire people who want to have religious content in their own holiday," he said.

Wooden, 43, considers the campaign such a success that he has set aside money in the church budget - full-page ads cost about \$7,600 - to buy a similar advertisement next year. Fresh off the fierce debate over same-sex marriage, which he opposes, condemnation from the left does not trouble him. On the contrary, he said: "It seems to me the greater the persecution, the stronger the church."

## COMMENT

The above newspaper article is very interesting. How can Christ be restored to Christmas. He was never in Christmas. Just consider the following facts about Christmas which we have repeated many times over the years in the *Advocate Of Truth*:

1. Most historians confirm that people began to celebrate Jesus' birthday on December 25 somewhere near the end of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth century AD.

2. The celebration was instituted by the Catholic Church, meaning, "Christ Mass".

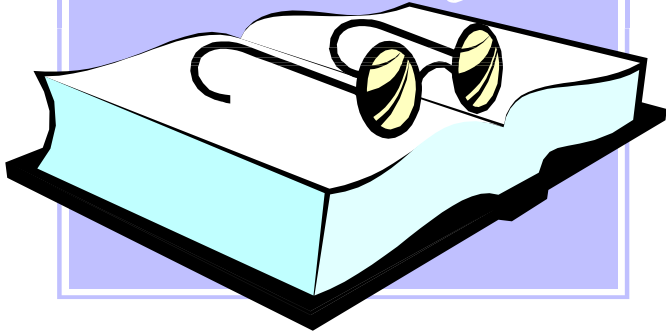
3. Before being adopted by the Catholic Church, December 25 was a season of revelry and festivity among the pagans, in honor of the sun gods. Christ was not in the picture.

4. However much He may be lauded, Jesus is not the central figure in this celebration.

Is the celebration of Christmas to honor Christ, or to conform to a custom borrowed from those who did not know Christ?

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Psalm 119:147 reads, "I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word." How could anyone prevent the dawning of the morning?

**Answer:** The difficulty here is in the change of meaning with respect to certain words since this translation was made. In the King James Version of the Bible, the word "prevent" is used many times when the true thought of the text is "precede." An example of this is in I Thessalonians 4:15, which reads, "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."

When we use the word "precede" here instead of "prevent", the meaning is clear, which is that those followers of our Lord who are living at the time of our Lord's return will not receive their reward in the first resurrection ahead of those who had died throughout the age. The word "prevent" was correct enough at the time the translation was made, but the meaning of the word has changed with the result that today it is an incorrect translation.

Today, translators have taken this into consideration. For example, in the case of the statement by the psalmist that he prevented the dawning of the morning one translation reads, "I arose before dawn." This is obviously what the psalmist had in mind in writing the psalm.

**Question:** When are we born of the Spirit?

**Answer:** "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he can-

not enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:5-8).

Jesus was born of the Spirit at His resurrection. We, too, will be born of the Spirit at the first resurrection. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised incorruption: It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:42-44).

**Question:** In what form are we after the resurrection?

**Answer:** We will not be flesh and blood, but we will be spiritual beings. "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal



shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:48-54).

We will be as Jesus was after His resurrection. "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet that it is I myself; handle me, and see for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye there any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:36-42).

Our bodies will be changeable as His was. We will be able to go through walls and then appear in human form.

**Question:** What is the "Pestilence" that walketh in darkness which we find in Psalm 96:6?

**Answer:** This is a Psalm presumed written by the Prophet and leader, Moses, while in the wilderness. He was leading the children of Israel to the Promised Land and under the influence of the Holy Spirit he is directed to write this psalm concerning the home of the saints in the future. It describes the angels of the Lord as the reapers when Jesus comes as "King of saints." Read Matthew 13:39-43; 24:29, 31; 25:31-32; I Corinthians 15:51; I Thessalonians 4:13-16. These texts are described in Psalm 91 when the Lord comes "For His Saints." They go to the new Jerusalem which has come down with the Lord Jesus into the air. There the marriage supper will take place. There is no need for the sun, moon, and stars (Matthew 24:29). Darkness will be all over the earth. The Seven Last Plagues are poured out upon all that are left on the earth. These plagues are the pestilence. Read verses 5 to 9 of Psalm 91, and note that "only with thine eyes wilt thou see the reward of the wicked." Why "only with thine eyes?" It is because you and all the saints are in the tabernacle of God which is the New Jerusalem.

**Question:** Who are the ones referred to as "Blessed" in Revelation 19:9?

**Answer:** Let us quote the verse. "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

This passage has reference to all that are caught up at the first resurrection. They are the same "Blessed" as you read in Revelation 20:6, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." When we the resurrection of the just takes place, then we are caught up into the air. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29). "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The next thing that will transpire is the Wedding of Jesus, the Son of God. His bride has made herself ready. The Bride is the New Jerusalem, the mother of us all. "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26). "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:9-10).

You are the blessed one that is invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Do you have your wedding garment ready? This garment is the righteousness of the Bridegroom.



## *Colombia, South America*

*These photos were taken during the recent trip of Brother Daniel Mena in Colombia.*





**LESSON I****SAUL'S THIRD ATTEMPT TO KILL DAVID****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 19:1-11.****Golden Text: I Samuel 19:10 (first part).****"And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin..."**

NOTE: We have learned in our previous lesson that Saul has tried two times to kill David. Now let us see what his third attempt will be to try to kill David.

1. What did Saul tell Jonathan, his son, and all his servants to do? I Samuel 19:1.
2. Did Jonathan warn David of his father's desire to kill him? I Samuel 19:2.
3. Jonathan told David to hide from Saul. Did Jonathan then plead with his father to not slay David? I Samuel 19:3-5.
4. Did Saul hearken unto his son? I Samuel 19:6.
5. Did Jonathan bring David to Saul? I Samuel 19:7.
6. Did David again fight for the king? I Samuel 19:8.
7. When an evil spirit fell upon Saul, what did he try to do to David? I Samuel 19:9-10.
8. David escaped that night from Saul. Then how did Saul pursue him? I Samuel 19:11.

**LESSON II****DAVID ESCAPES TO SAMUEL****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 19:12-24.****Golden Text: I Samuel 19:18 (first part).****"So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him...."**

**NOTE:** We last learned that Saul tried to kill David, but he slipped away in time. Saul still continues to hunt for David, and we will learn how he escapes again from Saul's evil attempts.

1. Who helped David to escape from Saul this time? I Samuel 19:12.
2. What did Michal do to help David escape? After reading the verses, tell in your own words the story. I Samuel 19:13-17.
3. Where did David go after his escape? I Samuel 19:18.
4. Did Saul again find out where David was? I Samuel 19:19.
5. What did Saul attempt to do this time? What happened to the messengers? I Samuel 19:20.
6. How many times did Saul send messengers? I Samuel 19:21.
7. Where did he usually follow David after this? I Samuel 19:22-24.

**LESSON III****JONATHAN'S COVENANT WITH DAVID****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 20:1-23.****Golden Text: I Samuel 20:16.****"So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David; saying, Let the Lord even require it at the hand of David's enemies."**

**NOTE:** Saul has tried several times to kill David. Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David and protected David from death. Jonathan is a very novel and unselfish person. Let us study now to see what kind of covenant he is going to make with David.

1. David has fled from Naioth in Ramah. To whom has he gone, and what does he ask him? I Samuel 20:1.
2. Jonathan tells David that whatever his father does he will know about it. What does David tell Jonathan to be aware of? I Samuel 20:2-3.
3. What request does David make of Jonathan in I Samuel 20:5-8.
4. What did Jonathan promise David? I Samuel 20:9-14.
5. Does Jonathan make a covenant with David? I Samuel 20:16-17.
6. What does Jonathan tell David to do within three days? I Samuel 20:18-19.
7. What signal would Jonathan give to warn David of his safety or danger? I Samuel 20:20-23.

3. On the second day when David did not appear, what did King Saul say to Jonathan? I Samuel 20:27.
4. Did Jonathan tell his father where David had gone? I Samuel 20:28-29.
5. Was Saul angry? What did he command Jonathan to do? I Samuel 20:30-31.
6. What did Saul try to do to Jonathan when he asked his father what evil David had done? I Samuel 20:32-33.
7. What did Jonathan do, and how did he feel toward his father? I Samuel 20:34-38.
8. Did David flee? What feeling did David and Jonathan have for each other? I Samuel 20:41-42.

**LESSON IV**

**JONATHAN WARNS DAVID**

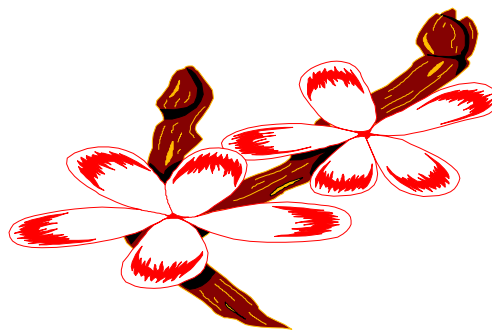
**Scripture Reading: I Samuel 20:24-42.**

**Golden Text: I Samuel 20:36.**

**"And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him."**

**NOTE:** Jonathan had made a covenant with David because he loved and cared for him. He wanted to protect David from Saul. When Jonathan learns of Saul's continued hatred of David, he gives David a signal. Let us now study how Jonathan warns David.

1. At the time of the new moon, what did David do? I Samuel 20:24.
2. What happened at the king's place when David did not appear? I Samuel 20:25-26.



**RHYMING WORDS**

**Find words from the Sermon on the Mount that rhyme with the word given:**

A word in Matthew 5:13 rhymes with halt.

A word in Matthew 5:17 rhymes with mink.

A word in Matthew 5:19 rhymes with leaven.

A word in Matthew 5:41 rhymes with rain.

A word in Matthew 5:44 rhymes with gray.

## SOONER OR LATER

**"A false witness shall not be unpunished,  
and he that speaketh lies shall not escape,"  
(Proverbs 19:5).**

**Below is the beginning of a story. We would like  
you to write its ending. How would our Heavenly  
Father like to see this story end?**

As Chad bounded down the steps of the school, he saw Derrick crossing the playground. He yelled for Derrick to wait for him. "Aren't you all excited about camp?" Chad asked.

Derrick shrugged. "You will earn enough points to pay all your way to camp," he said, "But I doubt that I will get to go. You are smart and good. You do everything right." Pretending to be their teacher, he added in a mocking voice, "I wish more people were like Chad."

"Cut it out," Chad said. "What I wanted to tell you is that the camp is offering horseback riding this year. I thought maybe you could go and do some riding. I know how much you like horses."

"I would like to," Derrick admitted, "But you know I will never have enough points to go free. I have a harder time learning things than you do."

"Maybe I could help you with your lessons," Chad suggested.

"Thanks, but it is too late to earn enough points this year," Derrick said. "My folks cannot afford to pay the extra money, either. But I wish I could go! I will just have to try to think of a way to earn the money."

"I will help you," Chad offered. "Let's make a list of jobs we can do. Then we will go around the neighborhood and line up some work."

So that is what they did. Both boys worked together to earn money for Derrick's camp fund. Derrick was thrilled to go to camp, and Chad was happy he could be a helper.

Chad and Derrick listened carefully as Mr. Collins gave the instructions for horseback riding. Each camper would be assigned to a horse for a week. They would be responsible for its care, but were never to ride without permission.

One afternoon when Mr. Collins went to get the horses at riding time, he found the gate open and all the horses gone! They were soon found nearby, but one horse was

covered with sweat. It had been ridden recently.

After the horses had been rounded up, the campers were called to the dining hall. "Someone disobeyed and rode a horse without permission," began the horsemanship counselor. "When it was returned, the gate probably was not latched tightly, and all the horses got out. They have been rounded up, but if anyone knows anything about this, see me in my office. If the guilty person does not come forward by tomorrow morning, the situation will be taken to the camp director."

As the boys were leaving the room, they began to question one another. "Say, what horse was it?" Chris asked Mr. Collins.

"Flame," the counselor replied.

"That is Derrick's horse," called one of the boys.

"Derrick's the horse fan. He is probably the one who did it," Tim joined in.

"I did not!" Derrick yelled.

"You are lying," said one of the boys.

"Yeah! You are the guilty one," said another. "You are always so..."

"Stop that!": interrupted Mr. Collins. "There will be no accusations without definite evidence. Many of you claim to be Christians, but right now you are jumping to conclusions. That does not please God any more than the disobedience of the one who rode the horse. I want you all to go back to your cabins and think about your actions. If you are guilty, or if you actually know something about this situation, I want you to speak up. But if you do not know anything specific, I expect you to keep quiet! You are dismissed."

As Chad entered his cabin after supper, he found Derrick packing his suitcase. "Hey, Derrick, what are you up to?" Chad wanted to know

Derrick whirled around. "What does it look like I am doing? I am leaving. My dad will come and get me if I call him."

"But why?" Chad asked. "As if you did not know!" Derrick snapped. "You all think I am guilty of taking that horse today, so I might as well go. I am not wanted here."

"But if you go now, you will really look guilty," Chad said.

"Who cares!" Derrick barked. "I am convicted already by everyone. Now move out of my way."

FINISH THE STORY FROM HERE.

FORTY OLD TESTAMENT PERSONALITIES

Here is a list of the names of forty people chosen from the Bible stories of the Old Testament. Most are well-known. All of the names are hidden in this puzzle.

- Aaron
- Abel
- Abram
- Adam
- Amos
- Barak
- Benjamin
- Boaz
- Cain
- Caleb
- Dan
- Daniel
- David
- Eli
- Esau
- Ezekiel
- Ezra
- Gad
- Gideon
- Ham
- Haman
- Hezekiah
- Jacob
- Jehu
- Jeremiah
- Job
- Joel
- Jonah
- Judah
- Laban
- Lot
- Moredecai
- Noah
- Obed
- Reuben
- Samuel
- Saul
- Shem
- Solomon
- Zephaniah



## TIME FOR GOD

When I received this e-mail, I thought...I don't have time for this...And this is really inappropriate during work. Then I realized that this kind of thinking is exactly what has caused alot of the problems in our world today. We try to keep God in church on Sabbath morning...Maybe Sabbath eve...And the unlikely event of a midweek service. We do like to have Him around during sicknesss...And, of course, funerals. However we don't have time, or room, for him during work or play...Because that's the part of our lives we think we can and should handle on our own. May God forgive me for ever thinking...That there is a time and place where ...He is not to be FIRST in my life. We should always have time to remember all He has done for us.

### THE POEM

*I knelt to pray but not for long.  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work,  
For bills would soon be due.  
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,  
And jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
My soul could rest at ease.  
All day long I had no time  
To spread a word of cheer.  
No time to speak of Christ to friends,  
They'd laugh at me, I'd fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry.  
No time to give to souls in need  
But at last the time, the time to die.  
Resurrection time soon came  
I went before the Lord,  
I stood with down cast eyes ...  
In his hand, God held a book.  
It was the Book of Life.  
God looked into His book and said,  
"Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down...  
But never found the time."*